

# HALT THE GROWING THREAT OF PANCREATIC CANCER: INCREASE FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING



## Five-Year Relative Survival Rates<sup>1</sup> Reported in 2016



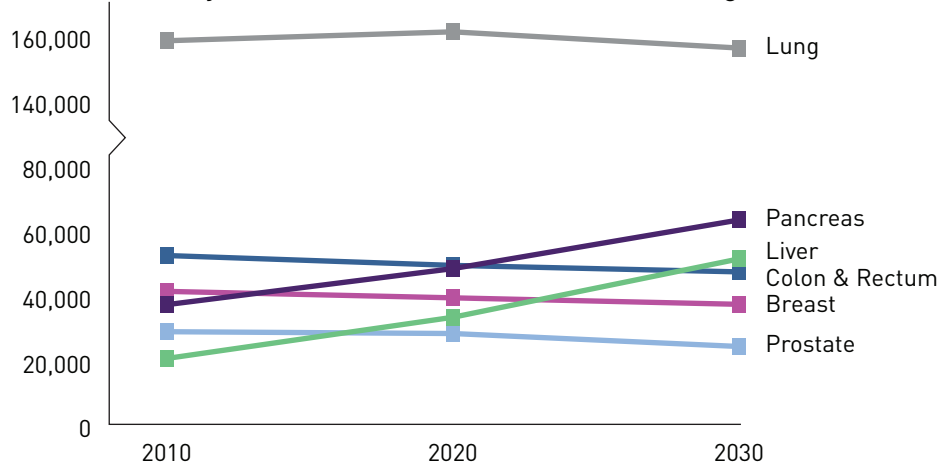
## PANCREATIC CANCER IS NOW THE NO. 3 LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER-RELATED DEATH.

Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of the top five cancer killers. In 2016, pancreatic cancer surpassed breast cancer as the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States. Another of the deadliest, or recalcitrant, cancers, liver cancer, has become the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death this year, exceeding deaths caused by prostate cancer. Lung cancer will remain the top cancer killer in the U.S. for the foreseeable future. Among all major cancers, pancreatic cancer is the only one with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits, at just 8 percent.<sup>1</sup> This poor outcome results from the lack of reliable early detection methods and limited treatment options.

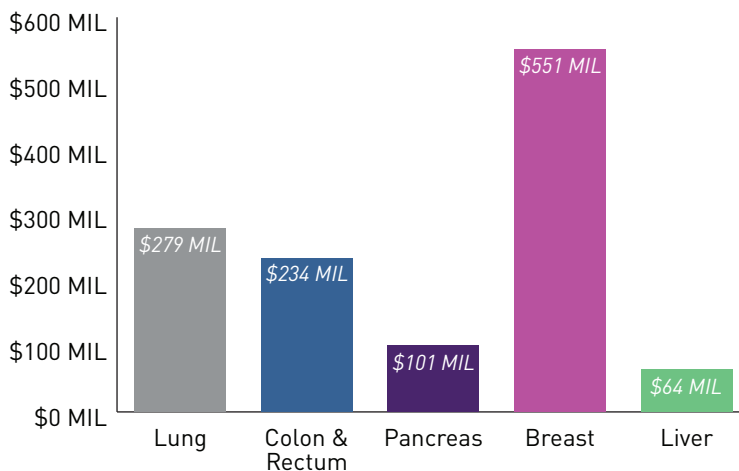
## PANCREATIC CANCER IS PREDICTED TO BECOME THE NO. 2 LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER-RELATED DEATH AROUND 2020.

Alarming, the incidence and death rates for pancreatic cancer are increasing, while rates for cancer in general are on the decline. It is projected that pancreatic cancer deaths will exceed colorectal cancer deaths around the year 2020, positioning pancreatic cancer as the second leading cause of cancer-related death. By 2030, liver cancer will become the third leading cause of cancer-related death, making the top five cancer killers in the U.S.: lung, pancreatic, liver, colorectal and breast.<sup>2</sup>

## Projected Cancer-Related Deaths Through 2030<sup>2</sup>



## 2013 National Cancer Institute (NCI) Annual Funding<sup>3</sup>



## MORE NCI RESEARCH FUNDING IS KEY TO TURNING THIS PREDICTION AROUND.

The pancreatic cancer research community desperately needs increased federal investment to accelerate the research necessary to change patient outcomes. Encouragingly, the NCI is in the process of implementing the recommendations made in the "scientific framework" (strategic plan) for pancreatic cancer issued as a result of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012. The historic funding increases provided by Congress to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCI in FY2016, the House passage of the 21st Century Cures Act and the President's calling for a Cancer Moonshot are also very hopeful signs. However, the continued increase in pancreatic cancer incidence and death rates only underscores the urgency of ensuring that the down payment Congress made on NIH and NCI funding is continued in FY2017 and beyond.

### Sources:

- American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2016. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2016.
- Rahib L, Smith BD, Aizenberg R, Rosenzweig AB, Fleshman JM, Matrisian LM. Projecting Cancer Incidence and Deaths to 2030: The Unexpected Burden of Thyroid, Liver, and Pancreas Cancers in the United States. *Cancer Res.*, 2014; 74(11): 2913-2921.
- NCI Funded Research Portfolio (<http://fundedresearch.cancer.gov/nciportfolio/>). Accessed February 2016.

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